

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2006-142-C - ORDER NO. 2006-334
MAY 26, 2006

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| IN RE: Petition of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC for |) | ORDER APPOINTING |
| Arbitration of Certain Terms and Conditions of |) | HEARING OFFICER |
| Proposed Agreement with Piedmont Rural |) | AND SPECIFYING ORAL |
| Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Concerning |) | ARGUMENTS |
| Interconnection Under the Communications Act |) | |
| of 1934, as Amended by the |) | |
| Telecommunications Act of 1996. |) | |

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on a Commissioner's Motion to appoint a hearing officer and to hold oral arguments in the instant docket regarding an arbitration proceeding between Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC (Charter Fiberlink) and Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Piedmont). On May 17, 2006, Charter Fiberlink filed a petition for arbitration pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requesting the Commission arbitrate unresolved issues arising out of the negotiation of an interconnection agreement between Charter Fiberlink and Piedmont. With the filing of the petition for arbitration, Charter Fiberlink filed an Emergency Motion for Expedited Interim Relief (Emergency Motion) from the Commission. By its Motion, Charter Fiberlink requests that the Commission require Piedmont to enter into an interim arrangement with Charter Fiberlink pending the completion of the instant arbitration proceeding.

In order to bring the Emergency Motion to a resolution, the Commission believes oral arguments should be held and that a hearing officer should be appointed to arrange the oral arguments hearing in this matter.

S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2005) provides for the appointment of a hearing officer to dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters. Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

We find that Joseph M. Melchers meets the required criteria for appointment as a hearing officer, and we therefore appoint Joseph M. Melchers as hearing officer in the present case. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Mr. Melchers to rule on appropriate procedural matters and to schedule the date and time for the oral arguments to be held on Charter Fiberlink's Emergency Motion for Expedited Interim Relief.

MAY 26, 2006

PAGE 3

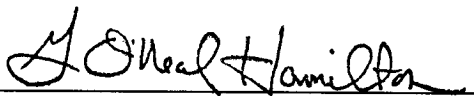
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)